

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
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AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
AMCONSUL IZMIR  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCEUR  
CINCUSAFE  
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1072

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR  
SUBJECT: MFA OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON LONDON AEGEAN CONTINENTAL  
SHELF TALKS

REF: ANKARA 1005 (DTG 091420Z FEB 77)

1. ON FEBRUARY 11, EMBOFF GOT FURTHER BRIEFING ON LONDON  
ROUND OF GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF NEGOTIATIONS  
(REFTEL), THIS TIME FROM MFA AEGEAN/LOS AFFAIRS CHIEF TURMEN,  
WHO PARTICIPATED IN LONDON SESSION.

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2. TURMEN SAID TH TWO DELEGATIONS HAD THREE SESSIONS, BUT  
MOST TIME HAD BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN  
DELEGATION HEADS TZOUNIS AND BILGE. (THESE DISCUSSIONS  
HE CHARACTERIZED AS "INFORMAL TALKS" RATHER THAN NEGOTIATIONS  
SINCE THE TWO DISCUSSED PROCEDURAL RATHER THAN SUBSTANTIVE  
ISSUES.) AT THE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS, TURMEN  
SAID, THE GREEK SIDE PRESIDENTED ITS VIEWS ON THE MANDATE OF THE

JOINT COMMISSION AND A LIST OF POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS, EMPHASIZING THAT PRECEDENTS SHOULD BE CONFINED TO AGREEMENTS IN FORCE. TURMEN SAID THAT THE GOT SUBSEQUENTLY HAD MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN ATHENS THAT THE WORK OF THE JOINT COMMISSION HAD BEGUN.

THIS ANNOUNCE-

MENT, HE SAID, WAS UNTRUE, BECAUSE THE COMMISSION HAD YET TO BE ESTABLISHED AND WOULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED UNTIL SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN. THE TURKISH DELEGATION DID NOT PRESENT ITS VIEWS ON EITHER THE MANDATE OF THE COMMISSION OR APPLICABLE PRECEDENTS, BUT RESTRICTED ITSELF TO "PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS"

ABOUT THE GREEK PRESENTATION.

3. TURMEN MADE CLEAR THAT THE GOT IS DETERMINED THAT SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ARE LINKED. IN GOT VIEW, ARTICLE ONE OF THE BERN AGREEMENT TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER ARTICLE EIGHT, I.E., UNLESS THERE ARE NEGOTIATIONS THERE IS NO RAISON D'ETRE FOR A JOINT COMMISSION. REFERRING TO THE STRASBOURG MEETING BETWEEN FONMINS BITSIOS AND CAGLYANAGIL, TURMEN REITERATED THAT TURKISH SIDE THOUGHT THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO THAT SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN IN LONDON. TURMEN SAID BITSIOS HAD TOLD CAGLAYANGIL THAT TZOUNIS AND BILGE SHOULD DEVELOP "ALTERNATIVES" FOR THE TWO FONMINS TO DISCUSS. THIS, IN TURMEN'S VIEW, REQUIRED SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATION AS A PREREQUISITE. IN THE CONTEXT, THE JOINT COMMISSION WOULD ASSIST THE TWO NEGOTIATORS IN DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES.

4. TURMEN SAID GOT "EXPECTS" THAT SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS  
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AND FORMATION OF JOINT COMMISSION WILL OCCUR IN PARIS NEXT MONTH. ASKED WHAT HE FORSAW AS GOT PRESENTATION THERE, TURMEN SAID THAT TURKISH SIDE WAS PREPARED TO SUBMIT ITS VIEWS ON JOINT COMMISSION MANDATE AND APPLICABLE PRECEDENTS (WHICH SHOULD NOT BE RESTRICTED TO AGREEMENTS IN FORCE, BUT WHICH SHOULD ENCOMPASS OTHER PRECEDENTS SUCH AS U.S.-CANADIAN AND ITALIAN-TUNISIAN EXAMPLES). THE TURKISH SIDE IS ALSO PREPARED TO EXCHANGE MAPS WITH GREEK SIDE, SINCE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT BE CONDUCTED IN THE ABSTRACT, BUT MUST BE RELATED TO A REALISTIC DELINEATION OF THE AEGEAN. (ONE POINT OF ACCORD IN LONDON WAS AN AGREEMENT THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD USE MAPS PREPARED BY U.S. DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY.)  
FURTHER, THE TURKISH  
SIDE, BY WAY OF DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES FOR THE FONMINS, WAS WILLING TO DISCUSS JOINT EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE AEGEAN SEABED.

5. ASKED WHY THE GOT WAS PUSHING FOR IMMEDIATE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS, TURMEN RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT GOT DID NOT WANT BERN AGREEMENT TO TURN INTO A CONFIRMATION OF THE AEGEAN

STATUS QUO. THE GOT HAD AGREED TO A TEMPORARY FREEZE ON ITS  
AEGEAN EXPLORATION ONLY IN ORDER TO FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS. HOW-  
EVER, IT DID NOT INTEND TO REMAIN BOUND BY THAT AGREEMENT IF NOTH-  
ING MORE THAN PROTRACTED PROCEDURAL DISCUSSIONS WERE TO ENSUE.  
FURTHER, HE NOTED THE PRESSURES OF OUTSIDE DEVELOPMENTS: (1) THE  
POLITICAL OPPOSITION WAS CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS FAILURE  
TO PRODUCE, (2) THE LOS CONFERENCE DID NOT SEEM LIKELY TO REACH A  
SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION AND (3) AT PRESENT MANY COUNTRIES WERE  
TAKING UNILATERAL ACTION IN LOS MATTERS. THE EC, HE NOTED, HAD  
DECLARED A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE ATLANTIC, BUT HAD SO FAR  
RESERVED ITS POSITION ON TERRITORIAL SEAS AND DECLARATION OF AN  
ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. HOWEVER, IF THE MEDITERRANEAN  
LITTORAL RTATES TOOK UNILATERAL ACTION, OR IF THE EC TOOK  
ACTION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, IT WOULD RAISE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT  
EITHER GREECE OR TURKEY, OR BOTH, WOULD FEEL THE NECESSITY FOR  
TAKING SIMILAR ACTION IN THE AEGEAN.

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## Message Attributes

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